|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Topic** | ‡**Notes** |
| Next meeting date | November 3, 2014 (First Monday) |
| Departmental Announcements | **SPECIAL EDUCATION**   * The Special Education Department hopes to start a dialogue with each department about how each department gives/uses notes. The department faces a shortage of para-educators, and is trying to decide how best to use them. **Would each department take the time to send a note SpEd Department Chair to begin this dialogue?** * Have all of the integration worksheets been received? Do you have students you believe should be in Special Education? Have you received information about accommodations for each? **If not, please send a note to SpEd Department Department Chair.** The Intervention **Referral Form** is available from the counselors.   **COUNSELING DEPARTMENT**   * Counselors are sending out efficiency notices this week**. Please make contact with parents of any students earning “F’s”.** Please remind students about tutoring available through classes and Flagship. * PSAT tests occur the week of MEA Convention. Students must apply to take it, paying the $15.00 fee. ACT tests will be administered to all juniors in April.   **FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES**   * Along with LB’s volunteers, the department is making salsa Wednesday.   **ADMINSTRATION**   * If you are taking filed trips in the city, check with Mary in Central Office. Most students already have on file parental permission for in-city field trips. * Because of Hellgate’s high PSAT scores (ten PSAT National Merit Scholars this year alone,) Principal has been asked to sit on the PSAT national advisory committee. * At the AA Principal’s meeting in Helena, learned that we need to do the AA Peer Review. It cannot slip another year. CMR will visit HHS this year, and Hellgate will travel next year. * Any food fundraisers must follow national guidelines about nutritional value. In other words, no cookie and cupcake sales may occur in competition with school lunches. Groups can, however, hold bake sales after the instructional day.   **ART DEPARTMENT**   * The faculty show is still up in the gallery by the auditorium.   **TITLE I**   * Tradition continues as Title I offers pizza to families of its students on the evening of Open House. * Eighth grade math scores for freshmen are now posted on Q. These scores help Hellgate determine eligibility for Title I classes.   **BUSINESS DEPARTMENT**   * The department now boasts 33 community members on its Finance Academy Advisory Board. The advisory group will break into six committees (i.e. Job   Shadowing Committee, Fundraising Committee) to build our Business Academy.   * The Business Department will build new classes including Banking Practices, Personal Finance, Advanced Finance, a better articulated Accounting 3, Business Economics, Technical Writing through the English department, a Financial Algebra Class, and 21st Century Career Essentials.   **LIBRARY**   * For better tracking, materials processed through Central Processing will be channeled through the department chairpersons. * Missoula’s Big Read for October still has books available in Hellgate’s Library.   **ENGLISH**   * The department suggests that the ODR (Office Disciplinary Form) needs some work to make it easier to submit online.   **MUSIC**   * MCPS hosts the Montana Music Educators’ Convention next week. Over 300 students will come for All-State evaluation. Some classrooms, teachers already notified, will be used next Wednesday night. Over the MEA Teacher Convention Days, the gymnasiums and music rooms will be busy with top musicians from around the state.   **SOCIAL STUDIES**   * Students from Big Sky and Sentinel will join Hellgate World History-English block classes at a presentation from the Lost Boys of Uganda. Students may not enter after the presentation begins. Expect sophomores to seek signatures on Prearranged Absence forms. |
| Course guide changes/additions | Changes to the Course Guide document must be made by Wednesday before MEA Convention. Department Chairs asked that the Course Guide list only the classes that are actually taught at Hellgate.  Principal will recommend that the entire, edited document be available for a second review prior to printing and distribution.  With the currently emerging curriculum model, teachers will no longer have to wait five years to review/modify classes. The process makes possible continuing change. |
| PLC Work during September & October. | Principal wants each department to have a global view of what all other departments are doing in their **PLCs.**  **SOCIAL STUDIES** **PLCs** work on team-building and lowering student failure rates. U.S. History teachers collaborate on scope and sequences. The World History-Honors English block collaboration on daily activities.  **ESL** **PLC** is working with administration to set up annual meetings with teachers of ELL student to better meet needs of individual student, These meetings will be modeled after the a 504 model.  **FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES PLC** works on development of Career Pathway units and a Moodle.  **ART PLC** got the Art Gallery operating and is looking at essential elements of Introduction to Art, common curriculum by semester.  **BUSINESS PLC** works on the Business Academy and Career Pathways. The department seeks to offer dual credits and is jumping through the legal hoops.  **TITLE I PLC** works on streamlining placement to better serve students. The goal is to raise each student’s reading level two years in one year’s time. Credit Recovery works to improve student completion rates.  **WORLD LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT** **PLCs** work to achieve common assessment and to strengthen languages across the district. Hellgate is the only school in the state to offer six languages! The department believes that foreign language should be required. Hellgate’s fourth year students have been invited to participate in the UM’s Culture Week in the spring.  **MATH DEPARTMENT** **PLCs** have developed an RTI-type class to help students who perform far below the Algebra I level. Algebra 1 teachers work to align with Common Core and common assessment. They recruited upperclassmen to help younger students with skill development.  **HEALTH ENHANCEMENT** **PLC** is doing fitness challenges, all teachers and students participating. Students and classes compare individual and class data to measure improvement. Classes compete with performance improvement totals.  **SPECIAL EDUCATION** **PLC** hopes to improve all student scores, so they initiate student-teacher meetings to share information about student progress.  **LIBRARY PLC** works with district librarians to refine Academic Honesty Policies and to better track the use of our databases. Librarians will attend department meetings to inform staffers about MCPS databases.  **SCIENCE** **PLC** aligned many units, creating baselines for content. Biology is aligning by quarter, for example.  **ENGLISH PLCs** work at all four grade levels. The freshmen-level PLC works to achieve common assessment by the end of Quarter 1. They hope to update their list of freshmen who need Title I services. All freshmen classes added an “Extension Board” to offer enrichment for more talented students. All freshmen teachers share the same curriculum for ***Of Mice and Men.*** To build common understanding, they are using the same literary terms in all freshmen classes.  **MUSIC PLC** collaborates to find common threads among performing arts classes. Hellgate will see examples of drama, for example, at our holiday and spring pops concert. They also study the new national core standards for the performing arts. They work to develop an IB Music Theory class for 2015-2016. (It may be taught for two hours on Thursday nights, 4-6 P.M. and cover music theory and composition. IB performance requirements will be met within large ensembles.) |
| Questions | Hellgate students have been in the news. Kathryn Clay graces the cover of a Montana arts magazine. Ken Fuller appears on the cover of ***Outside Magazine***. Megan Brown, Hellgate grad, is one of the editors ***of Outside Magazine***. Chad Eichenlaub, Class of 2007, has been nominated for Business Teacher of the Year. |